

TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS
RESOLUTION 58-21

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR A POLICE
EXPLORER POST AND A POLICE ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES LEAGUE BY THE
FOREST HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Introduced By: Calvin Washington, Mayor

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that Law Enforcement Exploring is a career orientation and experience program for young people contemplating a career in the field of criminal justice, and its mission is to offer young adults, ages 14-21, interested in a career in law enforcement a personal awareness of the criminal justice system through training, practical experiences and other activities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council further find that Law Enforcement Explorer Posts and "Police Explorers" are sponsored by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the country, and Law Enforcement Exploring is endorsed by numerous professional organizations, to include the International Chiefs of Police Association (IACP) and the National Sheriffs Association (NSA); and

WHEREAS, Police Explorers programs are based on a partnership between a participating agency, known as a sponsoring agency and normally a law enforcement agency, and Exploring component of the Learning for Life Program affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, and are based on the following five areas of emphasis: Career Opportunities, Life Skills, Citizenship, Character Education, and Leadership Experience; and

WHEREAS, Police Exploring serves two different age groups, both co-eds whereby exploring clubs serve middle schoolers, aged 10 - 14, in sixth through eighth grades, and exploring posts serve older youth 14 - 20 years old; however, the program model is the same for both age groups—hands-on and interactive character and career activities are facilitated by trained leaders in the community; and

WHEREAS, the partnership typically involves an agreement between the sponsoring agency and exploring that is memorialized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is signed annually by the head of the sponsoring agency (i.e., FHPD) and the Learning for Life representative; and

WHEREAS, the sponsoring police department typically provides (i) screening and selection of at least one adult advisor, a committee composed of three (3) or more adult members (often police officers), for a minimum of five (5) Explorers providing: (ii) a career orientation and activities program, (iii) administrative support for the Explorer Post, (iv) meeting and training facilities, and (v) uniforms, equipment and other types of financial support; and

WHEREAS, the national organization known as the Learning for Life Corporation supports the local Exploring programs by proving (i) affiliation with a respected youth organizations, (ii) leadership training for adults and youth leaders, (iii) guidance on Post

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organization and program development, (v) recruitment assistance (annual high school survey, etc.), (vi) use of regional or national facilities such as camps for recreational activities, (vii) coordination and communication with National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee, (viii) management and administrative support for National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference, National Law Enforcement Exploring Leadership Academics, and assistance with scholarships and awards, (ix) comprehensive general liability insurance coverage for the sponsoring agency, (x) personal accident insurance for Explorers and adults (for a small fee or, in some instances, may be provided by local Learning for Life Council as part of the annual registration fee); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that a local Police Athletic/Activities League ("PAL") serves the youth of a community with customized recreational, educational, cultural, and social programs for boys and girls ages 5 to 18 by providing a place to learn, grow, and dream; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council further finds that local PAL's may be independent or may join and be affiliated with the National Association of Police/Athletic Leagues, Inc. ("National PAL"), which has solicited federal grants and established public partnerships with corporations such as Verizon, Motorola, Walmart, Target and CVS to build trust and establish healthy and respectful relationships that are productive and fulfilling; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council further finds that a local PAL Chapter that is an affiliated member of National PAL or remains independent may become part of the police department or may incorporate under State Law as a separate entity or association having organizational bylaws if not registration with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council further finds that a local affiliation as member of National PAL provides access to a \$1,000,000 policy for liability insurance coverage at an affordable rate which covers PAL youth, coaches, volunteers, police officers, and anyone directly associated with the program; and

WHEREAS, Acting Mayor Washington introduced Resolution 47-21 on October 4, 2021, entitled "A Resolution to Accept a Grant from the Department of Justice for the National PAL Mentoring Program for the Town of Forest Heights Police Department"; and

WHEREAS Resolution 47-21 states that the Town has recently been informed that it is to be the recipient of a \$16,200.00 grant, and the Chief of Police has assigned a police officer to create and facilitate the programs for a local PAL.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby approves and ratifies the creation and implementation of a Police Explorer Post and a Police Athletic/Activities League program to be sponsored and supported by the Forest Heights Police Department.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Council further delegates to the Police Chief the requisite authority to execute an MOU or MOU's on behalf of the Town deemed prudent and necessary on behalf of the Town and any appropriate indemnification or liability release forms

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deemed necessary, and that the MOU shall be deemed to be approved, and authorized as of the effective date of this Resolution provided the same is reviewed for legal sufficiency, consistent with this resolution and approved by the Town Administrator; and

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that prior to the Chief of Police implementing any local PAL or Police Employer program or activity that he ensure the procurement of adequate insurance indemnifying the Town and Town officers and employees, to the satisfaction of the Town Administrator, and that the volunteers or participants shall agree to signing a release and waiver that is provided and maintained at all times during the period of participation, and/or otherwise obtain such insurance individual coverage to adequately protect the Town as deemed appropriate, as described or available through the Town's insurance carrier.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED this 17 day of November 2021.

APPROVED: By Resolution of the Town Council of The Town of Forest Heights, Maryland

ROLL CALL VOTE

YEA/NAY/ABSTAIN/ABSENT

LILLY

Yea

BROWNSON

Yea

NOBLE

Yea

BARNES

Yea

HINES

Yea

WASHINGTON

Yea

ATKINSON

Yea

ATTEST:

THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS,
MARYLAND

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Sherletta Hawkins, Town Clerk

SIGNATURE ON FILE

By

Calvin Washington, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify, as the duly appointed Town Clerk of the Town of Forest Heights, Maryland, that on the 17 day of November 2021 with 7 Aye votes and 0 Nay votes the aforesaid Resolution 58-21 passed.

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Sherletta Hawkins, Town Clerk

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